230

(27)

190

By the King.

# A Proclamation to reſtraine the planting of Tobacco in England and Wales.

IT is not vnknowen what diſlike Wee haue euer had of the vſe of Tobacco, as tending to a generall and new corruption, both of mens bodies and maners: Neuertheleſſe it is of the two, more tolerable, that the ſame ſhould be imported amongſt many other vanities and ſuperfluities which come from beyond the Seas, then permitted to be planted here within this Realme, thereby to abuſe and miſimploy the ſoile of this fruitfull Kingdome: For which purpoſe by Our direction, Letters of late haue beene addreſſed from our Councell of State, prohibiting the plantation thereof within a certaine diſtance of Our City of London: But entring into further conſideration of the manifold inconueniences of ſuffering this nouriſhment of vice, (and nothing elſe) as a noyſome and running Weede, to multiply and ouerſpread within this Our Kingdome, Wee are reſolued vpon many and weighty reaſons of State, to make the ſaid Prohibition generall.

For firſt, Wee are informed, That whereas the vſe of forreine Tobacco was chiefly vented, and receiued in Cities and great Townes, where ryot and exceſſe vſeth to take place, it is now by the Inland plantation become promiſcuous, and begun to be taken in euery meane Village, euen amongſt the baſeſt people.

Secondly, Wee are giuen to vnderſtand from diuers perſons of ſkill and experience, That the Engliſh Tobacco, howſoeuer ſome doe preſume or imagine by induſtrie and experience to rectifie it, and make it good (wherein it is eaſie for opinion to doe miſchiefe) yet it is certeinly in it ſelfe more crude, poyſonous and dangerous for the bodies and healths of Our Subiects, then that that comes from hotter Climates; So that the medicinall vſe of Tobacco (which is that that is onely good in it, and to be approoued) is in this kind alſo corrupted and infected.

Thirdly, whereas Our Colonies and Plantations in Virginia and the Sommer Ilands, (being proper and naturall Climates for that plant, and the true temper thereof) receiue much comfort by the Importation thereof into this Kingdome, (which is to be reſpected at leaſt in the Interim, vntill Our ſaid Colonies may grow to yeeld better and more ſolide commodities) Now the ſaid Trading from thence is and will be by the Plantation within this Realme, choaked and ouerthrowen.

Fourthly, wee doe find also, that the reaſon that mooued Vs to interdict the planting there-
ere the Citie of London, (which was in regard of the conuersions of garden grounds, and
oyed grounds from diuers Roots and Herbes, fit for victuall and sustenance, vnto this
ll vanitie) extendeth likewise vnto all Cities, Townes and Villages, and rather more,
in much the pouertie is greater there, then here aboue.

And lastly, for that it doeth manifestly tend to the diminution of Our Customes, which is a
g, that although in case of good Manufactures, and necessary commodities wee doe little
me; Yet where it shall be taken from Vs, and no good but rather hurt thereby redound to
people, wee haue reason to preserue.

ee therefore intending in time to prouide a remedie for this spreading euill, which hath in a
few yeeres dispersed it selfe into most parts of Our Kingdomes, doe hereby straightly
ge and commands all and euery person and persons of what degree or condition soeuer,
t they or any of them, by themselues, their seruants, Workemen or labourers, doe not from
after the second day of Februarie next, presume to sow, set, or plant, or cause to be sowen,
planted, within this Our Realme of England, or Dominion of Wales, any sort or kinde
Tobacco whatsoeuer; And that they or any of them, shall not, or doe not hereafter main-
e, or continue any olde stockes, or plants of Tobacco, formerly sowen or planted, but shall
thwith vtterly destroy and roote vp the same, conuerting and imploying the ground and
e thereof to some other lawfull vses and purposes, as to them shall seeme best, vpon paine
ntempt of Our Royall commandement, to be proceeded with according to Our Lawes,
Prerogatiue Royall with all seueritie.

And therefore, for the more due execution of the premisses, Wee doe further will, require and
mandall Mayors, Sheriffes, Justices of Peace, Bayliffes, Constables, and other Officers
ministers, to whom it shall or may appertaine, That they and euery of them, shall from
e to time diligently and carefully intend the due and exact obseruation of this Our Royall
sure, And that they permit not, nor suffer any thing to be done, contrary to the true intent
meaning of this Our Proclamation, but withstand the same to their vttermost power, as
y tender Our seruice: And further that they take order that such offendors, labourers, or
kemen, as shal persist in the sowing or planting of Tobacco, in this Our Realme or Domi-
n of Wales, or in the maintaining or continuing any old stocks, or former plantations there-
ereafter, may be called before them, & be bound in Recognizances of good summes to Our
to appeare in Our Court of Starrechamber, there to be prosecuted by Our Attourney ge-
ll, as contemners of Our expresse Commandement, Proclamation, & Prerogatiue Royall;
rein (especially in a cause of this nature) wee will expect, and require of all Our Subiects,
due conformitie and obedience.

Giuen at Our Palace of Westminster the thirtieth day of December, in the seuenteenth yeere of Our Reigne of Great Britaine, France and Ireland.

God saue the King.

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